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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

TL 3978

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/34/97**

UA 131/97 Fear for safety / Medical concern / Possible "disappearance" **2 May 1997**

EAST TIMOR **Edison Marcal Dias Freitas (27)**

According to an unconfirmed report, at about 4.30pm on 21 April 1997 members of the security forces shot and arrested Edison Marcal Dias Freitas, an East Timorese man from Santa Cruz in Dili. On 23 April, relatives went to the police station in Dili to inquire as to his whereabouts and state of health, but without success. Since then there has been no more information.

The family was given no reason for Edison Marcal Dias Freitas's apparent arrest. However, it is believed that he was suspected of having been involved in incidents, some violent, which took place when Bishop Belo returned to East Timor on 24 December 1996 from receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway (see UA 06/97, ASA 21/01/97, 8 January - and updates ASA 21/04/97, 12 February and ASA 21/16/97, 18 March). At least 15 people are currently standing trial in East Timor in relation to the events of 24 December.

If Edison Marcal Dias Freitas is in custody, Amnesty International is concerned that he may be subjected to ill-treatment or torture and that he may not have access to the medical attention which he requires for any injuries he might have sustained from the shooting. The lack of information about his whereabouts also raises fears that he may be killed or "disappeared".

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions of individuals suspected of links with the resistance movement continue in East Timor. Individuals taken into both police and military custody are routinely subjected to ill-treatment and torture, particularly during interrogation. The risk of torture is heightened because detainees are generally denied access to legal counsel and to their families. In addition, restrictions are placed by the Indonesian authorities on access to East Timor for independent human rights monitors.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:
- urging the authorities to establish and make public the whereabouts of Edison Marcal Dias Freitas;
- seeking guarantees that if he is still in custody, he will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to allow him access to medical care, members of his family and to independent legal advisors.

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APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for East Timor
Lt. Col. Mucharam
Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili
East Timor (Indonesia)
Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Lt. Col Mucharam

Military Commander Region IX/Udayana
(Covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
Major General Rivai
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar, Bali
Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX, Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major General Rivai

COPIES TO:

National Commission on Human Rights
Komisi Nasional Hak Asazi Manusia (Komnas HAM)
Alex Refialy SH
Jalan Dr Antonio de Carveho
Dili, East Timor
(Indonesia)

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 June 1997.